



SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Biplane, Air Combat & Warbird Adventures. Looking for a special treat to revive the senses? Biplane, Air Combat & Warbird Adventures at Palomar Airport offers a 30-minute flight for two in a restored open cockpit biplane. Guests will feel the gentle breeze and smell the ocean air as they cruise low and slow along the coast from Carlsbad to Del Mar. Guests will also have their senses indulged in their choice of soothing spa treatments. **Press contact: Biplane, Air Combat & Warbird Adventures, Kate Lister, 760/930-0903, ext. 7.** Public contact: 800/759-5667 or 760/438-7680, www.barnstorming.com.

Birch Aquarium at Scripps. Visitors to the Birch Aquarium at Scripps have a new dining experience. Located next to the famous Diving Whale fountain, Splash! Café features an array of gourmet delights guaranteed to satisfy any palate. Guests can relax at a café table on the sunny patio or grab a quick meal. Visitors can also sample hearty home-style soups and the daily vegetarian option while choosing from a wide variety of decadent treats. **Press and public contact: Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 858/534-3474,** www.aquarium.ucsd.edu.

LEGOLAND California. Guests of LEGOLAND California looking for a bold and daring attraction should look no further. Opening Memorial Day Weekend, guests will board one of six passenger-carrying robotic arms for a six-dimensional thrill ride through which they can choose their own experience and intensity while going “back in time” to battle a medieval dragon. The unique robotic coaster attraction will deliver surprising twists, turns and fun for the entire family. **Press contact: LEGOLAND California,**

Heather Riordan, heather.riordan@america.lego.com, 760/918-5412. Public contact: 760/918-LEGO (5346), www.legoland.com.

San Diego Airport. Delta Airlines is now offering nonstop service between San Diego and New York's JFK Airport. Combined with Delta's current service from San Diego to LaGuardia in New York, it's even easier to find the perfect route and times for that adventure to The Big Apple. **Press contact: San Diego International Airport, Diana Lucero**, dlucero@san.org, 619/400-2879. Public contact: Delta Airlines, 800/221-1212 or 619/400-2400, www.delta.com.

San Diego Marriott Gaslamp Quarter Hotel. Located in the historic Gaslamp Quarter, visitors can now stay at the new San Diego Marriott Gaslamp Quarter Hotel. The hotel offers 306 luxurious guestrooms, a new restaurant and a rooftop bar overlooking the bustling downtown and waterfront. Guest amenities include high-speed Internet, gourmet room service, 27-inch flat screen televisions and a laptop safe. **Press and public contact: San Diego Marriott Gaslamp Quarter Hotel, Kim McCarthy**, Kmccarthy@stanfordhotels.com, 619/696-0234, www.sandiegogaslamphotel.com.

San Diego Museum of Man. The last stop on a highly successful international tour, *Cuando Hablan Los Santos: Contemporary Santero Traditions from Northern New Mexico*, will highlight the works of 13 outstanding New Mexican *Santeros* or saint makers. This exhibition of Hispanic devotional art is on view through September 26. **Press contact: San Diego Museum of Man, Sydnie Moore**, 619/283-8896. Public contact: 619/239-2001, www.museumofman.org.

San Diego Natural History Museum. The incredible taste of chocolate has fascinated humans for thousands of years. Now through May 1, the San Diego Natural History Museum will present *Chocolate*, a special exhibit that explores the plant, products and culture of chocolate through the lenses of science, history and popular culture. The museum also offers an array of programs including cooking demonstrations, trips, guest speakers and tasting. **Press contact: San Diego Natural History Museum, Jessica**

Holmes, JHolmes@sdnhm.org, 619/255-0241. Public contact: 619/232-3821, www.sdnhm.org.

San Diego Zoo. Journey into the depths of a tropical forest and encounter some of Earth's most rare, unique and colorful creatures at the San Diego Zoo's new animal habitat, *Monkey Trails*. Located in the heart of the Zoo, guests can trek through Asian and African forests filled with some of the world's most endangered wildlife including mandrills, Africa's most colorful monkeys; Asia's beautiful and elusive clouded leopards; and the extremely rare pygmy hippo. The multi-level, naturalistic habitat spans three acres, transforming the center of the zoo into a monkey-filled forest rich with jungle life and tales of conservation efforts. **Press and public contact: San Diego Zoo, 619/231-1515, www.sandiegozoo.org.**

SEAL Tours of San Diego. Experience San Diego as it was meant to be – by land and by sea. On land, visitors will learn about San Diego's naval heritage and the history of the Big Bay. Visitors will then make a splash and embark on a water excursion where they learn about the early fishing industry and take pleasure in the views of Point Loma, the Cabrillo National Monument and Naval Air Station North Island on Coronado. **Press contact: SEAL Tours of San Diego, Rod LaBranche, RLaBranche@historictours.com.** Public contact: 619/298-8687, www.historictours.com.

SeaWorld San Diego. Just in time for spring, SeaWorld San Diego will debut an all-new sea lion and otter show. Opening March 19, *Clyde and Seamore in Deep, Deep Trouble* will take guests on a submarine-themed adventure, featuring California sea lions, otters and fantasy characters in this 25-minute program. A cast and crew of more than eight will set off on a submarine voyage that is mistaken for a "Love Boat" style single's cruise. This hilarious, family fun adventure is sure to entertain park guests and leave them with a greater appreciation for marine life. **Press Contact: SeaWorld San Diego, Darla Davis, 619/226-3829.** Public contact: 800/380-3203 or 714/939-6212, www.seaworld.com.

US Grant Hotel. For the second time in 94 years, the US Grant Hotel closed its doors to the public. Currently undergoing \$26 million renovation and restoration, the historic hotel will offer renovated guestrooms, dining and lobby areas. Plans also include restoring the original 1910 ambiance and atmosphere. The hotel will reopen in July and unveil a luxury hotel of unparalleled caliber and quality not available before in San Diego. **Press and public contact:** US Grant Hotel, 619/232-3121, www.usgrant.net.

Where You Want To Be Tours. Visitors have the chance to discover the hidden secrets of San Diego. Where To Be Tours is now offering three new two-hour tours that explores the historic neighborhood of Balboa Park, behind the scenes walking tour of the historic Gaslamp Quarter and the new PETCO Park. Guests can also take a spin on a bike tour around the beach neighborhood to check out little-known wonders such as a giant tiki and a seven-foot tall pirate statue. **Press and public contact:** Where You Want To Be Tours, 619/917-6037, www.wheretours.com.